



At the Council Chamber, Whitehall

THE 5th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2025

BY THE LORDS OF HIS MAJESTY'S MOST HONOURABLE
PRIVY COUNCIL

The Privy Council has approved the revised Statutes of The Queen's University of Belfast as set out in the Schedule to this Order.

Richard Tilbrook, CVO

SCHEDULE

REVISED STATUTES OF THE QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY OF BELFAST

Statute I - The Members of the University

1. The following persons shall be members of the University:
 - a) The Chancellor
 - b) The Pro-Chancellors
 - c) The President and Vice-Chancellor
 - d) The Pro-Vice-Chancellors
 - e) The Vice-Presidents
 - f) The Honorary Treasurer
 - g) The Members of Senate
 - h) The Members of Staff of the University
 - i) The Graduates and Honorary Graduates of the University
 - j) The Students of the University.
2. No person shall continue to be a member of the University unless they fall into one of the categories in paragraph 1.
3. A person shall enjoy the privileges of a Student only while they are pursuing a course of study approved by the Senate or while being a Sabbatical Officer.

Statute II - The Chancellor

1. The Chancellor shall be the ceremonial and ambassadorial head of the University.
2. The mode of appointment and terms of office of the Chancellor shall be prescribed by Regulation.
3. The Chancellor, or in their absence the President and Vice-Chancellor, a Pro-Chancellor, or a deputy appointed by the President and Vice-Chancellor, shall preside and confer Degrees, Diplomas, Certificates and other academic distinctions at all meetings of the University held for that purpose.
4. Senate may remove the Chancellor from office if the Chancellor is deemed, by Senate, to be incapable of performing the duties of the post or for other good cause.
5. The Chancellor may resign in writing, addressed to Senate, through the President and Vice-Chancellor.

Statute III - The Pro-Chancellors

1. Senate shall determine from time to time the number of Pro-Chancellors.
2. The mode of appointment and terms of office of the Pro-Chancellors shall be prescribed by Regulation.
3. Where two or more Pro-Chancellors are appointed, Senate shall determine which should act as Chair and Deputy Chair of Senate.
4. During the absence of the Chancellor, or during a vacancy in the office, or during their inability to act, the Chair of Senate shall exercise all the functions of the Chancellor. If the Chair of Senate is not available the Deputy Chair of Senate shall preside.
5. A Pro-Chancellor may resign in writing, addressed to Senate, through the President and Vice-Chancellor.

Statute IV - The President and Vice-Chancellor

1. The President and Vice-Chancellor shall be the Chief Executive and Chief Academic Officer of the University. Appointed by, and accountable to, Senate, the President and Vice-Chancellor shall fulfil four key roles:
 - (i) Chief Executive of the University, with overall responsibility for the leadership and management of the institution;
 - (ii) Chief Academic Officer and President of Academic Council;
 - (iii) Accountable Officer of the relevant sponsoring Government Department;

- (iv) Principal Ambassador, responsible for promoting the University, both nationally and internationally.
- 2. The mode of appointment and term of office of the President and Vice-Chancellor shall be prescribed by Regulation.
- 3. In the event of the absence of the President and Vice-Chancellor, or a vacancy in the office or their inability to act, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor nominated as Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor shall assume all the duties of the President and Vice-Chancellor until the Vice-Chancellor returns to post or a successor has been appointed and takes up post. Failing that, the appropriate Committee of Senate shall appoint a Pro-Vice-Chancellor or Vice-President to act as President and Vice-Chancellor.
- 4. The President and Vice-Chancellor may delegate any of their functions and may withdraw any such delegation at any time.
- 5. Subject to these Statutes and to any Regulations which may be made by Senate, the President and Vice-Chancellor shall have a general responsibility to Senate for maintaining and promoting the efficiency and good order of the University. In particular, the President and Vice-Chancellor shall exercise the powers and have the following duties:
 - (a) to prepare an Annual Report of the University for submission to Senate;
 - (b) to regulate the order to be observed at the conferring of Degrees and other academic distinctions and at other public ceremonials of the University;
 - (c) sign all Certificates of Degrees and Diplomas and other awards;
 - (d) in all cases of emergency to take such steps as they deem necessary for safeguarding the interests of the University;
 - (e) such other powers and duties as are set out in these Statutes or as Senate may from time to time determine.
- 6. The President and Vice-Chancellor may resign in writing, addressed to Senate, through the Chair of Senate.

Statute V - The Honorary Treasurer and the Senior Independent Governor

- 1. The mode of appointment and terms of office of the Honorary Treasurer and role of Senior Independent Governor shall be prescribed by Regulation.
- 2. The Honorary Treasurer and Senior Independent Governor may resign in writing, addressed to Senate, through the President and Vice-Chancellor.

Statute VI - Officers of the University

Senate and the President and Vice-Chancellor will determine the other officers of the University. Such officers shall include Pro-Vice-Chancellors, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost, Vice-Presidents and Registrar. The appointment of all such posts shall be compliant with Northern Ireland's employment legislation. The roles and responsibilities shall be determined by the President and Vice-Chancellor.

The Pro-Vice-Chancellors

1. Senate shall determine from time to time the number of Pro-Vice-Chancellors.
2. The mode of appointment and term of office of the Pro-Vice-Chancellors shall be prescribed by policy.
3. The President and Vice-Chancellor, after with consulting with the Pro-Chancellors, may designate one of the Pro-Vice-Chancellors to the role of Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor and delegate such functions as appropriate to enable that role including Deputy Chief Academic Officer.
4. A Pro-Vice-Chancellor may resign in writing, addressed to the President and Vice-Chancellor.

The Vice-Presidents

5. Senate shall determine from time to time the number of Vice-Presidents.
6. The mode of appointment and term of office of the Vice-Presidents shall be prescribed by policy.
7. The President and Vice-Chancellor may designate one of the Vice-Presidents to the role of Registrar and delegate such functions as appropriate to enable that role.
8. A Vice-President may resign in writing, addressed to the President and Vice-Chancellor.

The Registrar

9. The office of Registrar will be undertaken by one of the Vice-Presidents designated by the President and Vice-Chancellor after consulting with the Pro-Chancellors.
10. The Registrar shall be Secretary to Senate and to the Academic Council. Subject to these Statutes and to any Regulations which may be made by Senate. Registrar is entitled to attend meetings of all Committees of Senate and of Academic Council.
11. While reporting to the President and Vice-Chancellor, the Registrar shall carry out such other duties as Senate may from time to time determine.

12. In the case of the absence of the Registrar, or vacancy in the office, or their incapacity to act, the President and Vice-Chancellor may appoint an Acting Registrar until such time as the Registrar returns to post or alternatively, a successor Registrar has been appointed and takes up post.
13. The Registrar may resign in writing to the President and Vice-Chancellor.

Statute VII - Senate

1. Senate shall be constituted as follows:

Ex-officio Members

- a) The Chancellor
The Pro-Chancellors
The President and Vice-Chancellor
The Honorary Treasurer
The President of the Students' Union.

Ex-officio members of Senate shall hold office while they occupy the positions named

Other Members

- b) Two members of the Academic Council, elected by the Academic Council under Regulations prescribed by the Academic Council;
 - c) Two members of the academic staff of the University, not being Pro-Vice-Chancellors, elected by the academic staff under Regulations prescribed by Senate;
 - d) Two members of professional services staff, elected by this category of staff under Regulations prescribed by Senate;
 - e) Two members of the Students' Union Council, elected by that Council;
 - f) The Chair of Convocation;
 - g) Up to ten lay persons appointed under Regulations prescribed by Senate,
2. Members of Senate shall hold office only for so long as they are qualified under this Statute;

Members of Senate included in Classes 1 b), c), d), f) and g) shall hold office for such period as Senate may determine in accordance with Regulations prescribed by Senate.

The members of Senate included in Class 1 e) as Students' Union Council, elected by that Council, shall hold office for no more than two years; the members are to overlap to provide continuity.

3. When appointing members, Senate shall use its best endeavours to ensure that the membership of Senate is representative of the diversity of the University's staff and student body.
4. Any member of Senate may resign in writing addressed to the Secretary to Senate.
5. Whenever a casual vacancy will occur among the members of Senate, the Secretary to Senate shall put in place the necessary arrangements for the vacancy to be filled.
6. No Act or Resolution of Senate shall be invalid by reason only of any vacancy in the body doing or passing it or by reason of want of qualification or invalidity in the election or appointment of any member of such body

Powers of Senate

7. Subject to the provisions of Our Charter and the Statutes, Senate shall have power to regulate and determine all matters concerning the University, shall exercise all the powers and discretions of the University, and shall by Regulation prescribe the form, custody and use of the Common Seal. In exercise of its powers, Senate shall have regard to the obligations under the Charter to provide and maintain equality of opportunity to all persons.
8. Senate may delegate any of its functions and may withdraw any such delegation at any time.
9. Senate shall have power to make and amend Statutes and Regulations for the general government of the University, subject to the condition that no Statute or Regulation shall be altered so as to change the status, powers, or constitution of any of the Authorities of the University until such Authority shall have had an opportunity of pronouncing an opinion upon the proposed change.

The Authorities of the University are:

The Chancellor
The Pro-Chancellors
The President and Vice-Chancellor
The Honorary Treasurer
Senate
Academic Council
Convocation

10. Senate may from time to time appoint Committees, including joint committees with the Academic Council, consisting wholly or partly of persons not being members of Senate, with such powers and duties as Senate thinks fit. Senate shall determine the

standing orders, membership and, terms of reference as Senate thinks fit. Senate shall appoint Senate members onto Committees of Senate. When appointing members to committees, Senate shall use its best endeavours to ensure that the membership of the committees is representative of the diversity of the University's staff and student body.

11. Senate will delegate, through a Scheme of Delegation, responsibilities and authority as it sees fit including the signing of contracts and the application of the University Seal as required.

Meetings of Senate

12. Senate shall hold at least four ordinary meetings in the academic year. All meetings will be held in accordance with regulation which Senate will, from time to time, determine.

Recognition of Institutions

13. Senate may, on the recommendation of the Academic Council, recognise any organisation as an institution in which registered students of the University may pursue a course of study or part of a course of study leading to a Degree, Diploma, Certificate or other award of the University, and any such recognition shall be subject to such terms and conditions as Senate may determine by Regulations.
14. Where the associations between the University and the Institution meet criteria established from time to time by Senate, the Institution may, with the approval of the Privy Council, be accorded the title of University College.

Statute VIII - The Academic Council

1. The Academic Council shall consist of the following members:

Ex-officio members

- a) The President and Vice-Chancellor
Pro-Vice-Chancellors (including any Pro-Vice-Chancellor designated as Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor)
Principals of University Colleges
The Registrar
President of the Students' Union.
Holders of such other posts as may be prescribed by Senate from time to time

Ex-officio members of the Academic Council included shall hold office while they occupy the positions named.

Other Members

- b) Representation from the academic staff of the University as may be determined from time to time by the Academic Council and to be elected as

directed by the Academic Council. The number elected shall be of the order of, but shall not exceed, one half of the total membership of the Academic Council. These members shall hold office for such period as the Academic Council may determine in accordance with Rules prescribed by the Academic Council.

- c) Such members of staff as may be co-opted from time to time by the Academic Council. The number co-opted shall not exceed six. These members shall hold office for such period as the Academic Council may determine in accordance with Rules prescribed by the Academic Council.
 - d) Three students of the University appointed under Regulations prescribed by Senate. These members shall hold office for one year.
2. The President and Vice-Chancellor, or in their absence a Pro-Vice-Chancellor present, shall preside at meetings of the Academic Council. In the absence of the President and Vice-Chancellor and the Pro-Vice-Chancellors, the Academic Council shall elect one of its number to preside at the meeting.
 3. Subject to the Charter and Statutes, the Academic Council shall have control of the internal academic affairs of the University, the scope of which shall be prescribed from time to time by Senate.
 4. The Academic Council may establish wholly or partly from its own members such committees as it thinks fit, and may establish joint committees with Senate. The Academic Council shall have power to delegate to any such committee such of its functions as it may determine from time to time and may withdraw its delegation at any time.
 5. Subject to the provisions of these Statutes and to Regulations, the Academic Council shall have power to regulate its own procedure and fix the times and places of its meetings.
 6. Academic Council will institute Degrees, Diplomas, Certificates and other academic distinctions.
 7. Academic Council will institute other forms of honorary distinction to be conferred not being Degrees, and such honorary distinctions shall be conferred in accordance with Regulations prescribed from time to time by Senate.
 8. Academic Council will institute and award Fellowships, Studentships, Scholarships, Exhibitions, Bursaries, Prizes and other aids to study and research.
 9. The Examiners of the University shall be appointed by the Academic Council in accordance with Regulations approved by Senate upon the recommendation of the Academic Council.

10. Examinations for Degrees and Diplomas, Certificates and other academic awards shall be conducted according to procedures to be prescribed by the Academic Council.
11. No student shall be admitted to any Degree, Diploma or Certificate or other award unless they have complied with all the conditions governing the completion of an approved course of study on the recommendation of the Academic Council.
12. No Act or Resolution of Academic Council shall be invalid by reason only of any vacancy in the body doing or passing it or by reason of want of qualification or invalidity in the election or appointment of any member of such body.

Statute IX - Employment

1. Senate shall ensure that appropriate policies, procedures and appeal mechanisms, will be enacted, in compliance with employment legislation in Northern Ireland, as amended, to prescribe procedures for dealing with employee matters, including, but not limited to:
 - a) employee grievances;
 - b) conduct and discipline;
 - c) redundancy, redeployment and dismissal;
 - d) employee capability;
 - e) health and safety;
 - f) and any other such employee related processes as Senate shall from time to time require.
2. Any policy or procedure made under this Statute shall apply equally to all staff, and shall be construed in every case to ensure that members of academic staff have freedom (known as “Academic Freedom”) within the law to question and test perceived wisdom, and to put forward new ideas and controversial or unpopular opinions, without placing themselves in jeopardy of losing their jobs or privileges. Academic Freedom shall be construed consistent with Sections VI and VII of the Recommendation concerning the Status of Higher-Education Teaching Personnel adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in Paris on 11 November 1997.

Statute X - Institute of Professional Legal Studies

1. There shall be an Institute of Professional Legal Studies.
2. The constituent members of the Institute shall be the University, the Inn of Court of Northern Ireland, and Law Society of Northern Ireland.
3. There shall be a Governing Body of the Institute to be known as the Council of Legal Education (Northern Ireland), with such membership, powers and functions as Senate may from time to time determine.

4. There shall be a Director of the Institute appointed by the University with such duties and upon such terms and conditions as Senate may from time to time determine.
5. Subject to the provisions of these Statutes and to any Regulations made by Senate, the Council of Legal Education (Northern Ireland) shall have power to regulate its own procedure and determine the times and places of its meetings.

Statute XI - Convocation

1. Convocation shall consist of the following members:
 - a) The Chancellor
 - b) The Pro-Chancellors
 - c) The President and Vice-Chancellor
 - d) Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor
 - e) The Vice-Presidents
 - f) The remaining members of Senate
 - g) The Registrar
 - h) The graduates of the University who are enrolled as members of Convocation
 - i) Such other members of staff and classes of persons as Senate may determine following consultation with Convocation.
2. Convocation shall elect a Chairperson and a Deputy Chairperson from amongst its members to hold office for such periods as Convocation may determine. The Chairperson, and in their absence the Deputy Chairperson, shall preside at meetings of Convocation. A retiring Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson shall be eligible for re-election for one further term of office.
3. The University shall provide a proper place for meetings of Convocation and the services of a Clerk.
4. The Clerk of Convocation shall keep a roll containing the names of all persons who are members of Convocation according to the provisions of the Charter and these Statutes, and the roll shall be conclusive evidence that any person whose name appears thereon at the time of their claiming to vote in Convocation is entitled to a vote and that any person whose name does not appear thereon is not so entitled.
5. All graduates of the University shall at graduation pay a registration fee to be determined by Senate from time to time and shall be enrolled as members of Convocation for life.
6. The ordinary meetings of Convocation shall take place on such days as Convocation shall determine, provided that at least one ordinary meeting shall be held in each year.
7. Convocation at an ordinary meeting may discuss and pronounce an opinion on any matter whatsoever relating to the University, and shall do so upon any matter referred to Convocation by Senate.

8. The Chairperson may at any time summon an extraordinary meeting of Convocation of their own motion. The Chairperson shall do so at the request of Senate or on the requisition in writing of two hundred members of Convocation stating the purpose for which the meeting is required.
9. There shall be a Standing Committee of Convocation which shall be elected in accordance with the Standing Orders of Convocation.
10. The Chair of Convocation shall be elected to serve as a member of Senate.
11. Subject to the provisions of these Statutes and to Regulations, Convocation may, by Standing Orders approved by Senate, regulate its own procedure and may record its own proceedings.
12. No Act or Resolution of Convocation shall be invalid by reason only of any vacancy in the body doing or passing it or by reason of want of qualification or invalidity in the election or appointment of any member of such body.

Statute XII - The Students' Union

1. There shall be a Students' Union which shall elect from its own number a Union Council, hereinafter to be known as "the Council".
2. The Council shall be elected from the Sabbatical Officers and those, whether graduates or undergraduates, who have registered and are pursuing systematic courses of study leading to a University degree, diploma, certificate or other approved award, as shall be prescribed by Regulations made by Senate from time to time.
3. Subject to these Statutes, the Constitution of the Students' Union shall be prescribed by Regulation made by Senate following consultation with the Council, which shall take account of the views of the membership of the Students' Union.
4. The Council shall consist of a President and such other officers and members elected from among the members of the Students' Union in such manner as the students may determine by Rules to be made by the Council after consultation with the membership of the Students' Union and with the approval of Senate. The Rules shall not be altered except with the approval of Senate.
5. The functions of the Council shall be:
 - a) To promote the general and particular interests of its members and to represent them in all matters affecting their interests both to the University and to persons and bodies outside the University;
 - b) To promote equality of opportunity and a safe and relaxed environment for all its members;

- c) To support a range of student societies in the University and to provide competitively priced entertainments in a safe environment;
- d) To represent the interests of its members in the arrangements made for the provision of commercial services, which will be staffed wherever practical by its members, for the benefit of its members;
- e) To promote unity of spirit among its members and to enhance relations between its members and the members of other institutions of higher education and the entire community;
- f) To communicate with all other organisations with whom the Union maintains contact for the attainment of these objects;
- g) To formulate policy and deliver strategy on student matters;
- h) To raise awareness in relation to issues arising as a result of the Union's representational role;
- i) To promote the interests of its members in relation to:
 - freedom from harassment or intimidation;
 - reasonable access to funds/finance in accordance with the Students' Union Constitutional Rules;
 - the opportunity to participate in Union elections and activities;
 - the opportunity of freedom of expression, the right of assembly and association and the right to participate in associations (subject in the case of University societies to Chapter 4 of the Students' Union Constitution) and subject to compliance with the law properly relating to the right to freedom of expression and the right to the freedom of peaceful assembly.

It is recognised that these functions may be amended/superseded by subsequent Students' Union Councils.

- 6. The Council shall be entitled to make representation to Senate on any matter affecting the interests of the students.
- 7. Subject to the provisions of these Statutes and to any Regulations or Resolutions of Senate, the Council, having consulted the membership of the Students' Union, may regulate its own procedure, appoint its own committees and officers, and the Council, its committees and officers may exercise such powers and additional functions as Senate may approve or delegate to them.